



**New Paltz**  
Central School District

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**Barbara P. Clinton**  
*Principal*

**Dennis P. DiBari**  
*Assistant Principal*

March 16, 2017

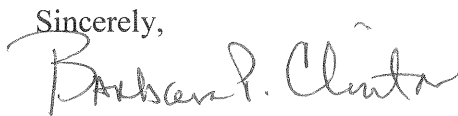
Dear Parents:

New Paltz High school is populated by students of varied racial and ethnic backgrounds; students of different economic means; students with varied religious backgrounds; students who identify themselves with different populations within the school; and students whose families are long time residents as well as those who moved here more recently. This variety creates enormous potential to tap into the multifaceted talents of our students. Classroom lessons benefit from the different perspectives each student brings to discussions and the overall vibrancy of campus life is enhanced by our diversity.

The New Paltz School District must also acknowledge that this growing diversity has the potential of creating different experiences for students who, as a result, may feel more or less engaged in the school community. To increase awareness and to build skills associated with the challenges and opportunities presented by our varied student community, we are working with diversity & inclusion consultant James Childs from JaRa Consulting, LLC. James, who has been working with staff and students in the New Paltz CSD since 1996, will be conducting workshops with the sophomore class as well as students who are new to the district since July of 2016. The focus of the workshops will be to explore how individual beliefs and values can be utilized in identifying and then practicing behaviors that will allow each of us to increase our appreciation of the individuals who make up our school community. The workshop will last approximately one hour and 45 minutes and will take place during one of the following dates, March 21, 23 or 24<sup>th</sup>. Students will be assigned one workshop and will be notified next week.

If you have any questions about the continuation of this important work, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,



Barbara P. Clinton  
Principal

BPC/slr

**“New Paltz High School...caring, connecting, and making a difference.”**

*New Paltz Central High School Mission Statement:*

*“To become a community of learners that emphasizes mutual respect and responsibility in which everyone realizes their potential.”*